

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**Call to Order:** CHAIRMAN JON C. SESSO, on January 12, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Jon C. Sesso, Chairman (D)  
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)  
Rep. Dennis Getz (D)  
Rep. Bill E. Glaser (R)  
Rep. Ray Hawk (R)  
Rep. Teresa K. Henry (D)  
Rep. Cynthia Hiner (D)  
Rep. Roy Hollandsworth (R)  
Rep. Galen Hollenbaugh (D)  
Rep. Llew Jones (R)  
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)  
Rep. Bill McChesney (D)  
Rep. Walter McNutt (R)  
Rep. Robert Mehlhoff (D)  
Rep. Penny Morgan (R)  
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)  
Rep. Carolyn Pease-Lopez (D)  
Rep. Don Roberts (R)  
Rep. Cheryl Steenson (D)  
Rep. Dan Villa (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Jon Moe, Legislative Branch  
Samuel Speerschneider, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing and Date Posted: HB 52, HB 64, HB 71, HB 123, 1/08/09  
Executive Action: None

00:02:09 Chairman Sesso  
00:02:18 Jon Moe  
00:02:53 Chairman Sesso  
00:06:02 Rep. Jones  
00:07:15 Chairman Sesso  
00:08:18 Rep. Jones  
00:08:49 Chairman Sesso  
00:08:58 Rep. Jones

**HEARING ON HB 64**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:09:22 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 27 opened the hearing on  
**HB 64**, Repeal termination on coal trust funding for  
economic development programs.  
  
00:10:39 Chairman Sesso  
00:10:48 Rep. Jones  
00:10:54 Chairman Sesso

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:11:37 Rep. Jones  
00:11:52 Chairman Sesso

**HEARING ON HB 123**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:11:58 REP. LLEW JONES (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on  
**HB 123**, Extend coal trust funded economic development  
programs--reduce statutory appropriations.

**EXHIBIT(aph06a01)**

00:13:26 Chairman Sesso  
00:13:48 Rep. Jones  
00:15:48 Chairman Sesso

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:15:52 Ron de Young, Director of Agriculture

**EXHIBIT(aph06a02)**

00:17:49 Chairman Sesso  
00:17:56 Tony Preite, Director, MT Department of Commerce  
00:18:38 Craig Young, Owner, Custom Recyclers  
00:21:56 Chairman Sesso  
00:22:02 Jim Davison, President, MT Economic Developers  
Association

**EXHIBIT(aph06a03)**

00:24:47 Chairman Sesso  
00:24:53 Brett Doney, President, Great Falls Development  
00:28:28 Chairman Sesso  
00:28:37 Paul Tuss, Bear Paw Development

**EXHIBIT(aph06a04)**

00:29:31 John Youngberg, MT Farm Bureau  
00:31:15 Larry Farrar, Resodyn Corporation  
00:32:45 Terry Myhre, Executive Director, Montana Business  
Assistance Connection  
00:34:40 Rick Edwards, Economic Developers Association  
00:35:52 Mike McGinley, President, MT Association of Counties  
00:36:53 Kris Merkel, S2 Corporation  
00:38:13 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association  
00:39:53 Josh Keller, Coordinator, Northern Rocky Mountain  
Resource Conservation and Development  
00:41:44 Ron Cooper, AduR, Inc., Bozeman  
00:43:29 Carl Kochman, Montana small businessman  
00:45:42 Richard Brigess, Professor, University of Montana  
00:46:59 Lisa Gryczan, Grow MT

00:46:46 Greg Gillispie, Fluorescence Innovations

**EXHIBIT (aph06a05)**

00:51:14 John Balsam, Montana Technology Innovation Partnership,  
Small Business Innovation Research

**EXHIBIT (aph06a06)**

00:54:22 Gary Amestoy, Richland Economic Development  
00:55:28 Neil Blossom, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center  
00:55:39 Chairman Sesso  
00:56:13 Steve Holland, Director, Montana Manufacturing  
Extension Center

**EXHIBIT (aph06a07)**

00:56:51 Neil Blossom

**EXHIBIT (aph06a08)**

00:58:43 Travis Right, Northern Rocky Mountain Resource  
Conservation & Development  
00:59:03 Chris Mehus, Director, Beartooth Resource Conservation  
and Development  
00:59:50 Chairman Sesso  
00:59:57 Mr. Mehus  
01:00:09 David Oien, Manager, Timeless Seeds, Inc.

**EXHIBIT (aph06a09)**

01:02:50 Chairman Sesso  
01:02:55 Greg Smith, Executive Director, Two Rivers Authority  
01:03:21 Jim Barngrover Alternative Energy Resources  
Organization  
01:03:41 Chairman Sesso

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:04:41 Rep. Roberts  
01:05:03 Rep. Jones  
01:05:47 Rep. Roberts  
01:06:00 Rep. Jones  
01:06:50 Chairman Sesso  
01:06:55 Rep. Hollenbaugh  
01:07:47 Rep. Jones  
01:08:27 Chairman Sesso  
01:08:31 Rep. Kasten  
01:09:15 Rep. Jones  
01:10:31 Chairman Sesso  
01:10:59 Mr. Davison  
01:11:06 Chairman Sesso  
01:11:13 Mr. Davison

01:11:53 Chairman Sesso  
01:12:02 Mr. Davison  
01:12:28 Chairman Sesso  
01:12:35 Mr. Davison  
01:12:45 Chairman Sesso  
01:13:36 Rep. Getz  
01:14:07 Rep. Jones  
01:14:14 Rep. Getz  
01:14:20 Rep. Jones  
01:15:07 Chairman Sesso

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:15:14 Rep. Jones  
01:18:48 Chairman Sesso

**HEARING ON HB 52**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:23:23 REP. WALTER MCNUTT (R), HD 37, opened the hearing on  
HB 52, Fund hydrogeologic study.

[\*\*EXHIBIT\*\*](#)(aph06a10)

01:28:07 Chairman Sesso

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:28:57 Rep. McChesney  
01:30:29 Chairman Sesso  
01:30:35 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Agricultural  
Irrigators  
01:31:44 Gary Amestoy, Richland Economic Development Corporation  
01:35:03 Brianna Randall, Clark Fork Task Force

[\*\*EXHIBIT\*\*](#)(aph06a11)

01:36:57 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association  
01:37:31 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau  
01:37:56 Rhett Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce  
01:38:29 Glen Opal, Montana Realtors  
01:39:06 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association  
01:39:23 Dustin Stewart, Montana Building Industry Association  
01:39:39 Chairman Sesso

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

01:40:08 John Metesh, Montana Bureau Mines & Geology  
01:40:24 Chairman Sesso  
01:40:34 Amy Bamber, Montana Department of Agriculture  
01:40:50 Chairman Sesso

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:41:04 Rep. Hawk  
01:41:37 Rep. McNutt  
01:42:07 Mr. Metesh  
01:43:02 Rep. Hawk  
01:43:20 Mr. Metesh  
01:43:26 Rep. Hawk  
01:43:39 Mr. Metesh  
01:43:58 Rep. Ankney  
01:44:18 Chairman Sesso  
01:44:47 Rep. Villa  
01:45:08 Chairman Sesso

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:45:49 Rep. McNutt  
01:45:57 Chairman Sesso  
01:46:02 Rep. McNutt  
01:46:07 Chairman Sesso

**HEARING ON HB 71**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:48:40 REP. DIANE SANDS (D), HD 95, opened the hearing on **HB 71**, Repeal sunset of hospital bed tax.

01:50:28 Chairman Sesso

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:50:48 Bob Olsen, Montana Hospital Association  
**EXHIBIT**(aph06a12)  
01:59:17 Mike Foster, Montana Catholic Hospital's Representative  
02:01:32 Rep. Hiner  
02:01:38 Amy Astin, Benefits Health System

**EXHIBIT (aph06a13)**

02:06:00 Amy Gramoniss, Billings Clinic  
02:07:26 Brett Doney  
02:08:04 Jack Casey, Administrator, Shodair Childrens Hospital  
Helena  
02:09:45 Rhonda Wiggers, Great Falls and Helena Chambers of  
Commerce  
02:11:05 Rep. Hiner  
02:11:11 Bill Warden, St. Peters Hospital Helena  
02:12:01 Erin MacLean, Montana Medical Association

**EXHIBIT (aph06a14)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:12:56 Rep. Hollenbaugh  
02:13:04 Rep. Sands  
02:13:19 Rep. Hollenbaugh  
02:13:27 Rep. Sands  
02:13:31 Rep. Hiner  
02:13:41 Bob Olsen, Montana Hospital Association  
02:15:09 Rep. Hiner

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:15:28 Rep. Sands  
02:15:56 Rep. Hiner

**ADJOURNMENT**

02:16:08 Adjournment: 5:30 P.M.

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SAMUEL SPEERSCHNEIDER, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([aph06aad.pdf](#))**